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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/566,330	09/11/2006	Erwin Knott	H0075.70110US00	5046
23628 7590 09/29/2009 WOLF GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C. 600 ATLANTIC AVENUE BOSTON, MA 02210-2206				
EXAMINER				
LAM, VINH TANG				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/566,330

Applicant(s)

KNOTT ET AL.

Examiner

VINH T. LAM

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) a patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims **1-7** and **9-15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Honkonen et al. (US Patent No. 6681764)** in view of **Willmore (US PGPub. No. 2003/0179156)**.

Regarding Claim **1**, (Currently amended) **Honkonen et al.** teach a display and control device for medical equipment including units connectable to an electric bus, the display and control device comprising:

(*) a base unit (i.e. computer, Col. **6**, Ln. **22-25**, FIG. **6**) including:

(+) an electric bus for the communication of units connected thereto (i.e. signals, interface, and network, Col. **6**, Ln. **45-52**, FIG. **1**),

(+) a plurality of connector devices (i.e. **17, 18, 9, and 10**, Col. **6**, Ln. **25-31**, FIG. **1**) at which the display/control unit can be connected to the electric bus via the unit connector (i.e. **53, 59, 55, and 56**, Col. **6**, Ln. **25-31**, FIG. **1**), and

(+) a configuration device (i.e. controller **16**, Col. **6**, Ln. **22-25**, FIG. **1**) which is connected with the electric bus and which, after connection of the display/control unit to

the electric bus, transmits configuration data determining display contents and input areas of the display/control unit via the electric bus (Col. 6, Ln. 28-31, Ln. 49-52, FIG. 1), wherein the configuration data further comprises an identification of a medical unit (i.e. **parameters** or information from input *sensors*, output *valves*, modes of *operations*, and the *indicator* interfacing with the *controller*; Col. 6, Ln. 22-52, FIGs. 1, 6, & 8-11), connectable to the electric bus from which data values are to be received, a criteria for evaluating the received data values (Col. 10, Ln. 25-32, FIG. 6; Col. 10, Ln. 57-58, FIG. 8; Col. 11, Ln. 1-5, FIG. 9; Col. 11, Ln. 11-13, FIG. 10; and Col. 11, Ln. 25-27, FIG. 11) and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values (Col. 10, Ln. 25-42, FIG. 6).

However, **Honkonen et al.** do not teach a display/control unit including display device activating pixels based on data, a transparent input device, input evaluating device, unit connector between display and control unit via electric bus.

In the same field of endeavor, **Willmore** teaches

(*) at least one display/control unit ([0045], FIG. 1) including:

(+) a display device having a plurality of activatable pixels ([0045], FIG. 1),

(+) a display activation device which activates the pixels of the display device on the basis of data supplied ([0055], FIG. 7),

(+) a transparent input device disposed on a surface of the display device that is to face an observer ([0051], FIG. 3a),

(+) an input evaluation device which evaluates inputs made via the input device ([0053], FIG. 5), and

(+) a unit connector with which the display activation device and the input evaluation device are connected and by which the display/control unit can be connected to an electric bus ([0055], FIG. 7).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine **Honkonen et al.** teaching of a base unit including an electric bus for the communication, a plurality of connector devices connecting the display/control unit via electric bus and unit connector, a configuration device interfacing with the electric bus transmitting data for displaying information accordingly with **Willmore** teaching of a display/control unit including display device activating pixels based on data, a transparent input device, input evaluating device, unit connector between display and control unit via electric bus *in order to benefit of* improving interaction between user and the medical equipment.

Regarding Claim 2, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Honkonen et al.** teach for each of the connector devices of the base unit, it is determined in the configuration device which configuration data are transmitted to a display/control unit connected to a respective connector device (Col. 6, Ln. 22-31, FIG. 1).

Regarding Claim 3, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Honkonen et al.** teach in the configuration device the configuration data transmitted to connected display/control units are determined depending on the sequence in which the display/control units are connected to the base unit (Col. 10, Ln. 43-52, FIGs. 7A-7D).

Regarding Claim 4, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Willmore** teaches several areas to display display contents and to receive inputs are logically defined in the display device of the display/control unit ([0055], [0062], FIG. 7).

Regarding Claim 5, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 4, wherein **Willmore** teaches several of the logical areas are combinable to form a connected area ([0055], FIG. 7).

Regarding Claim 6, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Willmore** teaches the at least one display/control unit includes several display/control devices that are constructed identically ([0055], FIG. 7).

Regarding Claim 7, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Willmore** teaches the display/control unit is fixed to the base unit by way of the connection between the unit connector and the connector device ([0055], FIG. 7).

Regarding Claim 9, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Willmore** teaches data for displaying digits, numbers and map pixels are stored in the display activation device of the display/control unit ([0055], FIG. 7).

Regarding Claim 10, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Honkonen et al.** teach the display/control unit and the configuration device are arranged such that data for display contents can be transmitted

to the display/control unit by the configuration device and stored in the display/control unit (Col. 6, Ln. 22-31, FIG. 1).

Regarding Claim 11, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 10, wherein **Honkonen et al.** teach the display/control unit informs the configuration device of which data for display contents are stored in the display activation device (Col. 6, Ln. 22-52, FIG. 1 & 6).

Regarding Claim 12, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Honkonen et al.** teach the display/control unit includes a bus communication device via which the display activation device and the input evaluation device are connected to the bus (Col. 6, Ln. 45-52, FIG. 1).

Regarding Claim 13, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Honkonen et al.** teach that there's no further control elements are provided (FIG. 7A).

Regarding Claim 14, (Previously presented) the display and control device according to claim 1, wherein **Honkonen et al.** teach apart from an on/off switch, no further control elements are provided (FIG. 7A).

Regarding Claim 15, (Previously presented) a display/control unit adapted for use in a display and control device according to claim 1 is rejected by the same rationales from teachings of **Honkonen et al.** and **Willmore** as shown above.

2. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Honkonen et al. (US Patent No. 6681764)** in view of **Willmore (US PGPub. No. 2003/0179156)** and further in view of **Zerhusen et al. (US PGPub. No. 2003/0052787)**.

Regarding Claim 8, (Previously presented) **Honkonen et al.** and **Willmore** teach the display and control device according to claim 7.

However, **Honkonen et al.** and **Willmore** do not teach that the display/control unit is fixed on the base unit via additional fixing elements.

In the same field of endeavor, **Zerhusen et al.** teach the display/control unit is fixed on the base unit via additional fixing elements ([0073], FIG. 4).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine **Honkonen et al.** and **Willmore** teaching of a display and control device for medical equipment including units connectable to an electric bus wherein the display/control unit is fixed to the base unit by way of the connection between the unit connector and the connector device with **Zerhusen et al.** teaching of the display/control unit is fixed on the base unit via additional fixing elements *in order to benefit* of securely attaching the display/control unit to the base unit by having a display and control device for medical equipment including units connectable to an electric bus, wherein the display/control unit is fixed to the base unit by way of the connection between the unit connector and the connector device, and the display/control unit is fixed on the base unit via additional fixing elements.

Response to Arguments/Remarks/Amendments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims **1-15** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art(s) made of record and not relied upon (is)/are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Suga; Ryoichi et al. (US Patent No. 4800376).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VINH T. LAM whose telephone number is (571)270-3704. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-4:30) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amare Mengistu can be reached on (571) 272-7674. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vinh T Lam/
Examiner, Art Unit 2629

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